Revenue realised through hike in coal prices

493. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the additional revenue realised through the hike in coal prices, year-wise, during the last three years;

(b) on what grounds the prices of coal have been raised on each occasion;

(c) whether it is a fact that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had advised the Government for enhancement in the price of coal in order to cover the mounting losses; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Coal prices are revised by the Central Government from time to time on the basis of cost study keeping in view the various factors like increase in the cost of inputs, wages, incidence of depreciation and interest charges etc. During the last 3 years the coal prices were revised twice, one with effect from 8-1-1984 and other with effect from 9-1-1986. Additional revenue accrual of Coal India Limited during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 on account of price revision with effect from 8-1-1984 were estimated as Rs. 127.54 crores, Rs. 466.00 crores and Rs. 472.00 crores respectively. Additional revenue accrual of Coal India Limited on account of price revision with effect from 9-1-1986 for the period from 9-1-1986 to 31-3-1986 is estimated to be Rs. 103 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Attempts to find out oil resources in Tamil Nadu

494. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had made any attempts to find out oil resources in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and the present stage in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ONGC have so far drilled 23 wells in the onland part of Cauvery Basin. At present, one well is under drilling at Thevur Drilling at another location is to start shortly.

So far, oil/gas has been discovered at Karaikal, Kovilkallapal and Narimanam, besides minor hydrocarbon indications at Madnam and Tiravarur.

495. [*Transferred to the 6th May*, 1986].

Quality Control/Price Control Centres for small and medium Industries

496. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the locations of Quality Control/Price Control Centres proposed to be set up for monitoring the price/quality of the products of small and medium industries in various places as promised by him in Delhi Doordarshan "Janvani" programme on 1st April, 1986;

(b) how many licences for various products, item wise, have been issued or recommended by D.I. Centres in Delhi to small and medium industrial units during 1985-86; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to curb the exploitation of consumers by private companies indulging in curtailing arbitrarily the sale area of stockists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The reference to "Quality Circles" by Industry Minister in the Janvani programme on 1st April, 1986 was made as a Management concept with reference to industry generally and there was no intention to have Quality Control/Price Control Centres in the SSI

units. By the very nature of employment in the SSI units, they cannot be expected to have quality circles. However, the Industry Minister had emphasised the need for SSI units to improve the quality of their products for which Government provides various incentives and facilities.

(b) There are no District Industries Centres in Delhi.

(c) The allocation of any area or market for the disposal of goods is a restrictive trade practice and the MRTP Commission is empowered to take appropriate action in any such case as per the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969.

Sick units

497. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many sick units both large and small-scale, are still in need of assistance from the Central Government like concession in tax and the like for their revival and rehabilitation;

(b) whether there is any plan to extend assistance to these units; and

(c) how many workers are affected, separately, for such large and small-scale units and what is Government's programme to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from RBI, there were 545 large scale, 1287 medium scale and 91450 small sick industrial units in the assistance portfolio of scheduled commercial banks as at the end of December, 1984. The Government and RBI have been emphasising on the banks and financial institutions to make efforts to identify sickness in an industrial unit at the incipient stage itself, carry out viability studies and nurse such sick units which are considered potentially viable. Banks and institutions draw up rehabilitation programmes in respect of the potentially viable units on a case-to-case basis which may contain both short term and long term measures.

(c) The Ministry of Labour have informed that no information is available regarding the number of workers affected in sick units. The number of workers affected because of closure of units was 24045 during 1985, as per the figures collected by the Labour Bureau.

Complaints from Consumer Organisations

498. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been numerous complaints from various Consumer Organisations/voluntary consumer forums during the last 3 years to the effect that there was no avenue for redress of mal-practices and unfair distribution of consumer products;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to empower the M.R.T.P. Commission with more powers to protect the common man; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring some legislation in this regard on the lines of the Consumer Protection Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The MRTP Act, 1969 was amended, effective from August, 1984, giving more powers to the MRTP Commission to deal with unfair trade practices. No Consumer Protection Bill has been introduced in Parliament.